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Recommendation for approval to increase the other resources ceiling for intercountry programmes for 2002-2003

Summary

At its second regular session of 2001, the Executive Board approved a total of $203 million for other resources funding for intercountry programmes for the 2002-2003 biennium (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.74). To date, $190 million in other resources funding has been received through the intercountry programmes.

Based on the anticipated receipt through 2003 of additional other resources funds for the intercountry programmes, the Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve an increase of $100 million in the other resources ceiling for intercountry programmes, from $203 million to $303 million, for the 2002-2003 biennium.

* E/ICEF/2003/10.

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I. Introduction

1. The overall purpose of the intercountry programmes is to allow UNICEF to respond to new opportunities for children as they arise at regional, multi-country, country and, in exceptional cases, global levels, in addition to the ceilings approved through individual programme recommendations. These funds provide a flexible window to receive and assign new contributions, often of a significant magnitude covering several countries, which cannot be immediately accommodated within approved funding ceilings, but which are justified in enabling the organization rapidly and effectively to seize the opportunity to mobilize and deploy additional resources.

II. Recommendation to increase the other resources ceiling

2. At its second regular session of 2001, the Executive Board approved $203 million in other resources for intercountry programmes for the 2002-2003 biennium (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.74). To date, a total of $190 million in other resources has been received from major donors, including the Governments of Japan, Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the Canadian International Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Foundation and a number of National Committees for UNICEF. The funds received to date have supported the priorities of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan through interventions in immunization "plus" for polio eradication and the expanded programme on immunization (EPI); HIV/AIDS; girls' education; child protection; and emergency preparedness.

3. Major contributions totalling approximately $100 million are expected to be received through the intercountry programmes during the remainder of 2003. These contributions will support immunization "plus", including an anticipated $70 million to purchase polio vaccines and to cover operating costs for polio eradication programmes in 54 countries, and approximately $30 million for EPI in 13 countries.

4. The increase in the other resources ceiling for intercountry programmes will facilitate the receipt of these funds.